

Appl. No. 10/614,507
Amdt dated August 18, 2004
Reply to Office Action of 07-07-2004

REMARKS

In the Official Action the Examiner rejected Claims 1-2, 5-7, 10, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103. The Examiner indicated that Claims 3, 8, and 12 were objected to as being dependent upon an rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has canceled Claim 1 and amended Claim 3 to include all of the limitations of Claim 1. Applicant has not included the limitations of Claim 2 in amended Claim 3, since it is believed that Claim 3 is allowable over the prior art with or without the further limitation of Claim 2. More specifically, Claim 2 requires the one of the catch and latch members that is provided with a plurality of teeth to be the latch member. Applicant respectfully submits that the invention as defined in Claim 3 is patentably distinct from the prior art whether the plurality of teeth are formed in the latch member or in the catch member. Accordingly, Applicant believes that Claim 3 is now in a condition for allowance since it has been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of Claim 1.

Claims 2 and 5 have now been amended so that they are dependent upon Claim 3. Since Claim 3 is allowable over the prior art, Claims 2 and 5 are likewise allowable for the same reason.

Applicant has amended Claim 8 to include all of the limitations of Claim 6 upon which Claim 8 was originally dependent. Accordingly, it is believed that Claim 8 is now

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allowable as amended. Claim 6 has been canceled.

Claim 7 has been amended so that it is now dependent upon Claim 8. Since Claim 8 has been rewritten so as to be allowable, Claim 7 is likewise allowable.

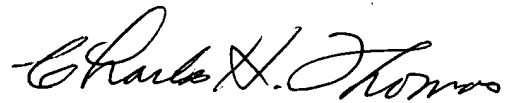
Claim 12 has been rewritten to include all of the limitations of Claim 10, upon which Claim 12 was originally dependent. Claim 10 has been canceled. Claim 11 has been amended so that it is now dependent upon Claim 12.

Applicant has canceled Claims 13 and 14.

It is believed that with the foregoing amendments all claims remaining in the application are now in a condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests allowance of all claims remaining in the application and passage of the application to issue in due course.

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Respectfully submitted,



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